

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

FRIDAY MAY 23

CHILEAN LIQUOR REFORM.

While the world is not in the habit of looking to Chile for advances in sociological reform, things are being done there for the regulation of the liquor traffic, which are worthy of study elsewhere. Within the last few months that country has passed a liquor law which, in some respects, touches the high-water mark of rational legislation. For instance local option is made to apply to neighborhoods within an incorporated town. The people of any section of a city may by vote establish a prohibition district from which the saloon is totally excluded. We have, perhaps, a similar state of things in Honolulu, by virtue of public petitions; but district local option by law is more desirable in that it does not leave room for one man to baffle the intent of complainants.

Dramshop licenses are offered for sale every three years to the highest bidder, but none may be granted within 200 yards of any school, church, charitable institution, or military barracks. No liquors may be sold in any theater or similar place of public amusement, nor in any railway station, nor on any railway train, nor to minors, nor between midnight and 6 a. m. Agreeable to the Latin habit no exceptions are made for Sunday.

An effort is made to lessen the political influence of the dramshop by forbidding any public official whatsoever to hold or be in any way interested in any liquor license. The Chilean liquor dealer who wishes to hold public office must first change his occupation, and the public official who wishes to deal in intoxicants must resign.

The public interest in seeing that those who will drink shall not be led to use poisons worse than alcohol is also recognized. Every distillery and brewery is in charge of a public chemist, its product is under control, both in quantity and quality, and the penalties for adulteration are severe.

Offenses against the law are tried summarily. No case can be continued more than ten days, and no judge may withhold his decision more than five days. Thus cases are not kept pending until the prosecution gets tired of its job.

It is obvious that there are some sections of the Chilean law which might be reasonably adopted here, especially that of neighborhood option.

King Edward has bestowed a graceful compliment on an aged American woman, Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnson, by inviting her to attend the coronation. Mrs. Johnson, as Harriet Lane, was mistress of the White House for her widower uncle, President Buchanan. In that capacity she entertained the Prince of Wales, now King Edward, on his visit to this country. Although forty-two years have passed, the British sovereign has not forgotten his fair American hostess and she, having already sailed for Europe, will be able to thank and congratulate him in person.

In his latest cartoon, which appeared in yesterday morning's cartoon paper, Mr. Yardley shows a weak spot in his character. He is conceded enough to believe that the persons whom he has drawn in his cartoons bear him ill will and rejoice at his departure. Not so, Mr. Yardley, we prefer to be cartooned by a clever artist rather than a maul, and you are clever and we wish you success wherever you go—Independent.

[In justice to Mr. Yardley it should be said that the cartoon was made by the art staff of this office after he had left the paper.]

The Cousins' Society has had a most interesting and helpful career in these islands as will be seen from a review of the papers read last night at its semi-centennial. These have a special historical value which entitles them to a place in the files of the Advertiser and in the archives of the Historical Society. Such papers, with others of a reminiscent sort, might well be gathered in book form so as to rescue from popular forgetfulness much that goes to make up our most significant past.

What Honolulu will do for good plays and players is shown in the financial results of the Warde engagement. A net profit of not less than \$3000 will reward the efforts of the company. This is a remarkable showing for a city which, with Asiatics eliminated, would be a very small place indeed. One of its sure effects is to attract other eminent artists here and if proper efforts are made we should be able to see many of the best plays brought to the coast.

The late David Kanewai was, in his capacity of editor of the Kuokoa, a co-worker with the Advertiser staff. He was a fine type of the educated, industrious and high-minded Hawaiian. Under his direction the Kuokoa became, with one exception, the most widely circulated paper in these islands. His sudden taking off deprived his people of one who had in him the capacity to be a wise leader in public life.

There is enough money already on deposit to start a fourth of July fund but it is in control of the inaugural ball committee of 1906 the members of which are requested to attend the citizens' meeting at the Governor's office this afternoon at three and decide what is to be done with it. The amount is considerable.

A NOTEWORTHY LIFE.

In another column Rev. Dr. S. E. Bishop, who is on the brink of his golden wedding day, speaks reminiscences of Honolulu. Born in Hawaii seventy-five years ago and only going away to be educated and to take a short pastorate, he has seen these islands emerge from heathendom into civilization and from the rule of chiefs and kings to the rule of the people under the constitution of the United States. When he was born Hawaii was a far more distant outpost in the world than it is now. The nearest civilized port of any consequence was to be found in South America, and the territory of the United States could only be reached from here by a voyage around the Horn. California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Nevada, and part of Colorado and Wyoming, belonged to Mexico, and were but thinly settled and at that, only along the California coast. The vast region since acquired from Mexico was almost as much of a terra incognita as the peninsula of Lower California is now. As to the Sound country, it had been partially explored twenty-three years before and the little fur-trading settlement where the Astor fortunes were founded antedated Dr. Bishop's birth by only fifteen years.

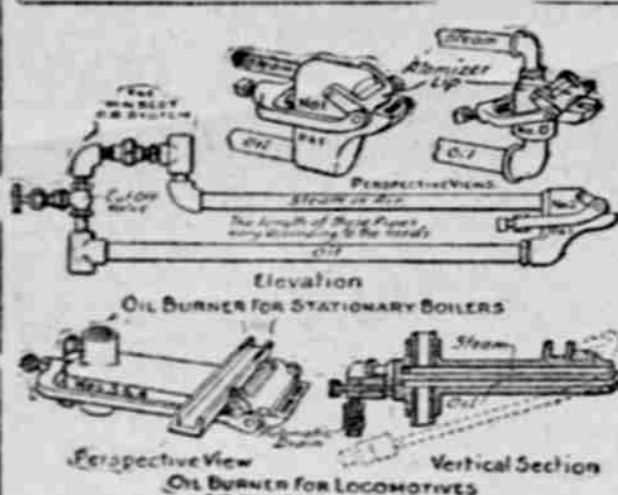
When California was annexed by the United States the subject of this sketch was within two years of his majority. It seems phenomenal that he should have among us a man, hearty, rugged, with the glow of health on his face and his mental qualities unimpaired, who was on the verge of manhood at a time when savages held all but small areas of the mainland between the Mississippi river and the Sierras and most of the western country bordering the sea as well. At the time of Dr. Bishop's birth the population of the United States was approaching the total made three years later of 12,866,020. The center of population was then in West Virginia. Today New York and Pennsylvania alone have more than 13,000,000 population and the whole country must have about 75,000,000. It would not be out of all reason for Dr. Bishop to hope to live long enough to see the population pass the 90,000,000 mark, exclusive of what is to be added through the annexation of foreign lands.

Dr. Bishop's life has been wholly useful. A man of marked literary facility and of sound Christian spirit and training he has written and preached for over half a century and has been identified with every rational cause of moral and religious upbuilding here. Taking a deep and vigilant interest in higher politics he has helped every movement which aimed to give Hawaii the rule of honest and capable men; and when the great political change came his pen was employed with skill and vigor in the cause of annexation. Through all the stress of his more active years he found time to make original researches in science; and it was he, we believe, who discovered the relation between the seismic outburst of Krakatoa and the brilliant red sunsets which prevailed for so long a time afterward. What astronomers know as Bishop's ring, also testifies to our venerable townsman's scientific attainments.

If the phrase were not so hackneyed it would be in keeping with the life, dignity and influence of Sereno Bishop to call him the Grand Old Man of Hawaii.

NEGROES WILL FIGHT.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., May 6.—The first step was taken today by the negroes of Alabama toward testing the new constitution of the State, when Nelson Bibb, an aged negro, made affidavit before a notary that he had been denied the right to register, although alleging that he had complied with all of the qualifications exacted by the constitution. It is said that this affidavit will be used by Wilford H. Smith, a negro lawyer from New York, who is here, in filing a bill in the United States District Court declaring that the constitution of Alabama is contrary to the Federal constitution. If he is unsuccessful in the lower court, the case will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court. The Colored Men's Suffrage Association, which was organized here about a month ago, has issued an appeal to the negroes of the State to subscribe \$2000 to pay the costs of contesting the new instrument.



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ELKS' NIGHT

It was Elks' night at the theater last evening and the herd apparently browsed in pleasant pastures. Emblems of Elkdom, emblazoned with electric lights, decorated the house and "Auld Lang Syne" was sung with outstretched hands toward the man who has enrolled more members in the order than any other, Frederick Warde. Floral expressions of fraternity greeted him and salutes of applause echoed his speech. Warde, as an Elk of the best breeding, wore the colors of the order in the last act.

Of the play much may be said in admiration of the skill of the players in evolving such pathos and comedy from the somewhat clap-trap melodrama with its sensational effects and climaxes.

Both as an Elk and a critic I deplore the fact that space forbids eulogy this morning. Warde as the mountebank brings tears to the eyes with true pathos and invests the unnaturalness of the last masquerading scene with an intensity that makes the character life-like and real. Herman has an indifferent role as the cold-blooded villain with a ridiculous anti-climatic final appearance at the close. Harry Johnston's characterization of the noble of the Bourbon dynasty, aristocrat and rouse even in approaching senility, was consistently clever. Miss Bertelle is deserving of praise for her natural Henri and carries in her somewhat diminutive person much of the talent of the company. Miss Warde appeared to excellent advantage in her ingenious role, and Miss Treseott gave life to duplex characters with clear precision. Mr. Hynes deserves congratulation as Farnonade, playing the part with careful reservation and effectiveness. Mr. Coleman stood out from the rest of the cast as did MacLeod as the Republican inkeeper and deputy of many offices. Miss Ashton as the wife must not be forgotten. Her voice is always pleasing, her posturing effective and her presence welcome. The honors lay with Warde and Miss Bertelle in the pathos of the second act.

ALLAN DUNN.

THEY THINK WE HAVE COLD FEET

A representative of the baseball nine of the U. S. S. Manila called at The Advertiser office yesterday and asked that a challenge be issued on behalf of the team to play any baseball nine in Honolulu. The gunboat's nine was considered one of the best in the Philippines and won a long series of good games out there.

Speaking to a reporter yesterday the representative of the team said: "When we arrived here we heard many good reports concerning the Honolulu ball teams. So good, in fact, were these reports that they made the Manilas quite eager to arrange a game. Unfortunately, however, our team is a very strong one and your boys must have been made aware of the fact, as we have been unable to get a team to play us. Kindly notify the public that we stand ready to meet any team in the Islands."

The above is a very sporting challenge, if just a trifle egotistical, and if a game could be arranged it would surely draw a good gate. It seems a pity that such a good nine should be allowed to depart from these shores hungry for a game. The Manila is scheduled to sail on Sunday morning, however, so that there is not much time left.

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